

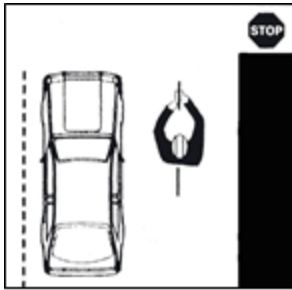
Delaware Bicycle Laws

Title 21, Delaware Code
Chapter 41, Subchapter XII

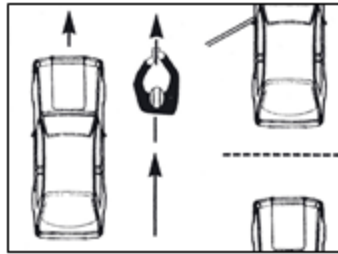
1. Parents and guardians shall not authorize or permit violation of these laws by the child or ward.
2. Persons riding a bicycle shall have all the rights and responsibilities as drivers of other vehicles.
3. No bicycle shall carry more persons than it was designed to carry, except an adult rider which may carry a child securely attached in a backpack or sling.
4. Persons under 18 years of age must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet while operating or riding upon a bicycle on any property open to the public or used by the public for vehicular or pedestrian purposes.
5. A trailer or semi-trailer may be securely attached to a bicycle.
6. Persons riding a bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall not cling to another vehicle upon the highway.
7. A bicycle shall be ridden "far enough to the right as judged safe by the bicycle operator" except :
 - a. When passing another bicycle or vehicle going in the same direction,
 - b. When making a left-hand turn,
 - c. When avoiding parked or moving vehicles, fixed or moving objects, animals, surface hazards, etc.,
 - d. When the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the same lane.
8. A bicycle may be ridden near the left-hand edge of the roadway only on one-way highways with two or more lanes and a less than 30 mph posted speed limit.
9. Persons riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall not travel more than two abreast. On a lane roadway bicyclist shall ride within a single lane. Riding two or more abreast is permitted on paths or parts of the roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
10. Persons riding a bicycle shall have both hands available to operate the bicycle. At least one hand shall be kept on the handlebars at all times. A one-armed person may ride a bicycle and must use mechanical turn signals.

11. Left turns shall be permitted according to:
 - a. Normal motor vehicle left turn procedures,
 - b. Approach the turn on the right edge of the roadway, cross the intersecting roadway, stop out of the way of traffic, yield to all vehicles and pedestrians, obey all traffic control devices and then proceed in a new direction,
 - c. Special traffic control devices,
 - d. While not specified in the law, another important option, especially for children, is to dismount and cross the intersection as a pedestrian.
12. Right and left turn signals shall be used not less than 100 feet from turn and while stopped waiting to turn. Such signals may be used intermittently, rather than continuously, if the hand giving the signal is needed to control the bicycle.
13. Turn and slow/stop signals shall be given.
14. Persons shall not ride a bicycle on a sidewalk or crosswalk where prohibited by official signs or markings. A person riding a bicycle on a sidewalk or in a crosswalk shall yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking. In addition, Subchapter III-A states that bicycles cannot be operated or driven on controlled-access highways, except where appropriately marked by the Department of Transportation.
15. Persons riding a bicycle on a sidewalk, or pushing a bicycle across the road at a crosswalk shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a pedestrian.
16. A bicycle may be parked on a sidewalk except when prohibited by official signs or when impeding the normal, reasonable movement of sidewalk traffic.
17. Bicycles may be parked where vehicle parking is allowed, but may not be parked in such a way as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.
18. A uniformed police officer may stop, inspect and test a bicycle that is suspected to be unsafe or to have improper equipment.
19. When riding at night, a bicycle shall be equipped with a front, white light visible for at least 500 feet from a motor vehicle with lawful low beam head lamps.
20. Every bicycle shall be fitted with a rear, red reflector visible from at least 600 feet from a motor vehicle with lawful low beam head lamps.
21. When riding at night, a bicycle shall be equipped with reflective material visible from both sides for at least 600 feet, or a lighted lamp visible from both sides for at least 500 feet, from a motor vehicle with lawful low beam head lamps.

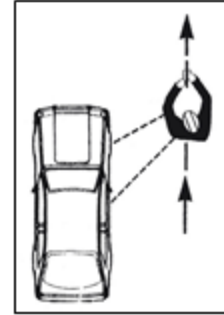
22. A bicycle and its rider may be equipped with additional lights and reflectors.
23. A bicycle shall be equipped with brakes that are capable of stopping the bicycle within 25 feet from a speed of 10 mph on dry, clean, level pavement.
24. A bicycle sold at retail shall have a permanent identification number stamped or cast on its frame
25. Persons riding a bicycle shall not wear ear or a headset covering both ears. Persons who are hard of hearing should wear a hearing aid while riding a bicycle.
26. Human powered vehicles are activated by means of foot pedals and the driver normally rides astride. Adult cycles are included but all children's cycles are excluded as are all toys and all vehicles that require the driver to place a foot on the ground to cause motion.
27. Persons shall not ride a bicycle on a highway while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or narcotic drugs to a degree which renders such a person a hazard.
28. Bicycle racing on a highway shall only be permitted when approved by DelDOT or local authorities.
29. Persons involved in a bicycle race that has been approved by DelDOT may be exempted from compliance with traffic laws provided that traffic control is adequate to assure the safety of all highway users.
30. "Delaware Yield" permits bicyclists to yield at stop signs (when the coast is clear) instead of requiring a complete stop. Bicyclists are still required to stop a red lights.



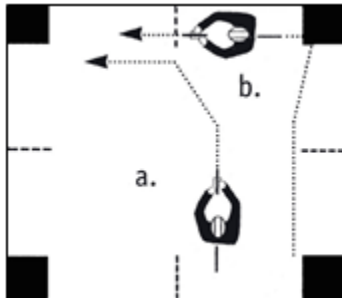
Obey traffic signs and signals. Bicycles must behave like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.



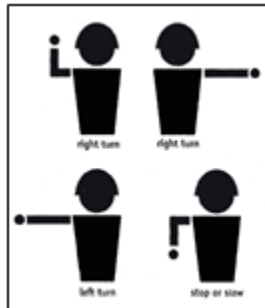
Ride in a straight line whenever possible and ride with traffic. Keep to the right, staying about a car door width away from parked cars.



Scan the road behind. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. Some riders use rearview mirrors. Always look back before changing lanes or changing positions within your lane and only move when no other vehicle is in your way.



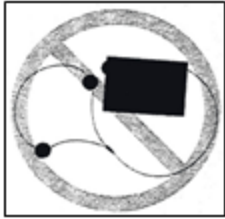
There are two ways to make a left turn:
a. Check for traffic behind you, then signal and move to the left lane on four-lane roads or to the left side of your traveling lane on two-lane roads. Yield to oncoming traffic and then turn left.
b. Approach the turn on the right edge of the roadway, stop out of the way of traffic, yield to all vehicles and pedestrians, obey all traffic control devices and then proceed across intersection.



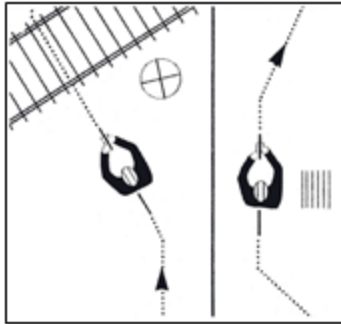
Communicate your intention to turn, stop, and change lanes using recognized hand signals.



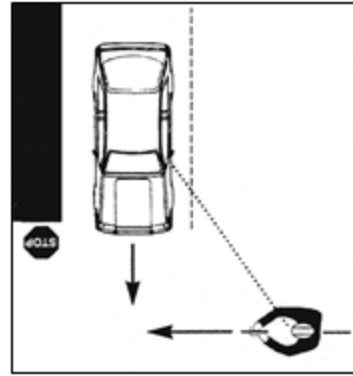
Ride a well-equipped bike. Use a bright headlight, taillight, reflective material and light colored clothing at night and when visibility is poor. White headlights and red rear reflectors are required by law. Never carry anything in your hands that prevents you from riding with both hands on the handlebars.



Do not cover both ears with a headset. It's against the law.



Watch for road hazards. Avoid riding over parallel-bar sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, gravel and ice. Cross railroad tracks and speed bumps carefully and at right angles.



Watch for cars that may cross your line of travel. Make eye contact with drivers. Don't assume they see you until you are SURE they do. When in doubt, yield.

Other Considerations

Bicyclists should be aware of their surroundings and the effect their travel might have on others. For example, if a bicyclist notices that a line of vehicles has formed behind the bicycle because it is moving more slowly than other vehicles using the road, the bicyclist should turn off the roadway at a safe location in order to permit the other vehicles to proceed.

For More Information please contact:
The Delaware Department of Transportation
Statewide and Regional Planning
P.O. Box 778
800 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19903
(302) 760-2133

Or visit the Delaware Bicycle Council website at
www.deldot.gov/Programs/bike